IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 18-19 of the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

The oligonucleotides:
PAK 5 5'-NGATATACATATGAAAAATACCGACCCAGTTGC (SEQ ID No.11) and
PAK 6 5'NNGGATCCTTAGGTTAGTTAGAAAACCTTGAATGGTGGG (SEQ ID No.12) were used as primer in an amplification reaction under standard conditions using the *ntd* gene of *L. fermentum* cloned in pSU19 (pLF6) as DNA matrix. The amplification product was digested by the restriction enzymes *Nde*I and *Bam*HI for 2 hours at 37°C, purified on agarose gel and inserted into the plasmid pET24a digested by the same enzymes then the ligation mixture is used to transform the strain β 2033. The plasmid DNA from the colonies was prepared and digested by the enzymes *Nde*I and *Bam*HI. Those, the sequence of which was correct, were used to transform the strain BL21 (DE3)/p*lys*S (Novagen). The plasmid DNA of the mutant pSU19NLFA15T selected previously was prepared then digested by the enzymes *Nde*I and *Bam*HI. The corresponding fragment *Nde*I-*Bam*HI was then inserted into the plasmid pET24a digested by the same enzymes in order to produce the expression plasmid pETLFA15T useful to the expression of the mutated protein. A strain of *E. coli* transformed using the plasmid pETLFA15T was deposited at the CNCM (INSTITUT PASTEUR, 25 rue du Docteur Roux, F-75724 PARIS Cedex 15) on 22nd March 2004 under accession number I-3192. The overproduction of the two N-deoxyribosyl transferases, native and mutated, was obtained from cultures of this strain in 500 ml of LB medium supplemented with Km and Cm. These cultures were induced at an OD_{600} = 0.6 by the addition of IPTG (0.4 mM), the incubation being continued for 2 hours 30 minutes at 37°C.

Please replace the Abstract with the replacement Abstract which is attached on a separate page to this response.